

THE BELL RINGER

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Clay Risen Talks About Becoming A Writer

by
Karthik Sastry
Staff Probe

When I asked Clay Risen what advice he had for an aspiring writer, he emphatically replied, "Do not, whatever you do, major in journalism or creative writing."

It seems an odd statement coming from someone whose career is journalism and creative writing. "Don't write with a purpose," he suggested, "in the same way you don't learn to ride a bike in order to win the Tour de France. But one day you might look up from your keyboard and say, 'Hey, I'm pretty good at this.'" For Risen, writing must come from within.

Alumnus Clay Risen ('95) returned to campus on April 27 to speak at assembly. Clay is the managing editor of the progressive, up-and-coming *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*.

He was formerly an editor for *The New Republic*, and his work has appeared in prestigious publications such as *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and *Slate*. Clay is also the author of *A Nation on Fire: America in the Wake of the King Assassination*, acclaimed by *Publisher's Weekly* as a "crucial addition to civil rights history."

Risen feels he has a "dream job" at *Democracy*. As managing editor, he oversees the production of each issue of the journal. He feels lucky to be working with such a great team of editors and writers, many of whom, as he describes, "[make] up the inner circle of American political and

policy debates."

A Nation on Fire recounts the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 1968 and the ensuing chaos which swept the nation. Clay was inspired to write the book by the personal experiences of his parents, both of whom vividly remember the riots in Chicago and Washington, D.C. following Dr. King's death.

In many ways, he feels his perspective is unique. Risen assiduously researched his book with primary sources to capture the

emotional state of the nation at the time. Being removed from the events, though, Risen feels he approached the situation objectively.

A major theme in Risen's book is the continuing alienation of urban America following the riots. In this sense, Risen believes that America is becoming an increasingly suburban nation. Suburbanization is a process that, according to Mr. Risen, has been fueled by many factors, from the car to the

internet to the modern mortgage.

To Risen, the suburbs are becoming more socially and economically complex. For this reason, he believes that the suburbs will be a dynamic force in America's future. "The next generation of American politics will be decided in the suburbs," said Risen. "Particularly as the suburbs become more diverse in ethnic, religious, and economic terms, I think [tomorrow's leaders] will have to be able to speak to their myriad concerns."

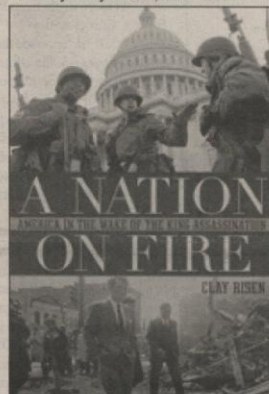
Risen asserts that writing itself has always come naturally to him. "The question," he confessed, "is whether I can shape the constant stream of noise that is my unedited writing into something that makes sense [and] that is enjoyable to read." Risen describes this aspect of the writing process as a struggle that the writer can only occasionally win.

For anyone considering a career in writing, Risen has a three-word mantra: "Read, write, and experience." He urges aspiring writers to write about what they know, but also to expand their horizons through travel.

Clay still has not forgotten the legacy of MBA in his career. "You'd be amazed at how many famous writers don't know what an 'object complement' is and how grateful they are when I correct them," said Risen. "Diagramming sentences really does make a difference."



Clay Risen, distinguished author
and MBA alumnus



The cover of Mr. Risen's book,
A Nation on Fire

Is Amazon's Kindle 2 A Vehicle For Textbooks?

by Nick Caprioli
Staff Technical Wizard

A little more than a year ago, Amazon.com introduced the Kindle, an electronic book reader that revolutionized the industry. Now, they have launched the Kindle 2, a sleeker version with fixes to many faults in the original. The latest incarnation of the Kindle has several people (with close ties to the administration) wondering whether it could be the future platform of textbooks for students at MBA.

The Kindle really revolutionizes the amount of reading material one can have at a time. Utilizing the 2 gigabytes of built-in memory, a user can store up to 1,500 books on a single device. The content is delivered to the device via the built-in 3G Wireless Network Modem similar to those found in many smartphones.

The Kindle piggybacks off the Sprint Wireless Network to deliver most

novels to the device in under a minute, without paying a monthly data fee. In addition, the Kindle can be connected to a computer and have documents (say, an essay for Mr. Coverstone's Government class) put on it. Alternatively, documents can be e-mailed to the device for a ten-cent fee.

The device itself looks very futuristic, with its six-inch, black and white (non-backlit) screen, full keyboard, and five-way navigation eraser-head. Reading on the device is comfortable, and the changeable text size is helpful when adapting to different lighting conditions.

As a replacement for the paperback novel, the Kindle is a fantastic alternative. As a replacement for a textbook, the Kindle is a step in the right direction, but lacks several key features that would really make it a must-have device for every student.

First, the screen needs to be larger to incorporate the amount of text and graphics that are in most textbooks. Also, a backlit screen would enable the device to be used in very-low lighting conditions. Color on the screen would be nice, but not a necessity. Second, the keyboard on the device could provide a mobile platform for homework and theme writing, when coupled with a basic text editor. Unfortunately, the keyboard on the device is hard to use at best, so much so that I'd rather write my theme on my BlackBerry than on my Kindle.

A third problem is the price of the device. Weighing in at a hefty \$360, the Kindle is not a cheap device to own. In addition, one must pay for the books on the device. For paperback, the price is actually cheaper (by almost seven dollars for the latest Clive Cussler novel I just read).

But the largest problem may be

the number of textbooks available for the Kindle. At the time of printing, none of the textbooks I use for my AP classes was available in a Kindle version, and, in fact, only some of the short novels for my English class were available. Once the texts are available, however, the publishers may still charge a high price for them, throwing the total cost of the Kindle textbook idea squarely into the "astronomical" category.

Ultimately, I think that keeping tabs on the Kindle platform would be a good idea, but it is not ready for prime time yet. Given another year or so, I can foresee Amazon releasing a new Kindle that addresses the major technical issues with the device, but the final say rests with the publishers and when they decide to bring their content to the Kindle platform.

(Editor's note: Read another view of the Kindle on p. 14)

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Beyond the Hill: Engaging Latin America... the Right Way

by
Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Editorialist and Realist

Perhaps Mr. Obama might have benefited the past few weeks from viewing the "Never Shake the Hand" video, especially considering the massive amount of protest and opposition that he has faced from shaking Mr. Chavez's and other Latin American leaders' hands. He has shown much good will to some less-than-friendly Latin American nations in an attempt to differentiate his administration as much as possible from President Bush's foreign policy.

He has reversed the thawed relations between the United States and many of the socialist countries south of our border, but change does not necessarily equal improvement. Instead of befriendng hostile enemies, Obama should be more aggressive in demanding real change—from their leadership, not ours.

President Obama has taken the most drastic action with Cuba, engaging the Castro brothers. The Cuban government's track record should horrify the president. Their human rights record is ranked alongside Burma, North Korea, and Sudan, all three countries whose governments are responsible for the deaths of millions of their citizens. Obama has good intentions to export capitalism and good will to Cuba's citizens by lessening American sanctions against Cuba. Sad to report, though, these good intentions yield counterproductive results. Further reduction of sanctions would help the government, already in control of the economy, rather than the Cuban people. Earlier US attempts of appeasement of the Cuban government have all resulted in failure, in which the Cuban government feels more empowered to either take action against the United States or repress their people even further.

Obama has also engaged two other authoritarian socialist leaders in Latin America—Evo Morales of Bolivia and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. Although he hasn't enacted any new policies yet, even talking with them sets a new standard of the "Obama Doctrine" of foreign policy.

Both leaders, however, have been staunchly opposed to the United States. Morales has been belligerent with the United States in drug cooperation and once called himself America's "worst nightmare." Chavez, in addition to

calling President Bush the "devil," has established himself as a near-dictator domestically as well as a partner with United States' enemies such as Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Sudan's Omar al-Bashir. Even talking to these leaders sends the wrong message. Furthermore, both leaders have been

reluctant to deal with frank topics of international security, drug trading, and the global economy. Thus, productive relations are never actually formed.

As President Obama is still in the initial phases of building his foreign policy, he must reshape his approach to belligerent governments.



President Obama shakes hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.
What is the significance of a handshake?



Will the United States be able to mend the relationship with Bolivia, under President Evo Morales, and other Latin American nations?

United States-Cuba Relations Need Wise Re-Consideration: An Interview with Yorgan Petit

by
Jack Hallemann
Staff Writer

[Writer's Note: Before you read this article, please read Aaron Lutkowitz's editorial. He uses some big words, but, trust me, if you can fight your way through it, it'll make this article so much more meaningful. Aaron has written about the recent changes in United States/Cuba relations under the Obama administration. While some may say these changes are small, they are incredibly important for many Cuban-Americans.]

Recently I had the pleasure to interview Yorgan Petit about his thoughts on these changes. Many of you probably know Yorgan as the guy who occasionally rocks out on the bongo drums in assembly. However, if you haven't met Yorgan, I encourage you to do so immediately. He's one of the funniest men I've ever met, and he has an incredible story.

Born in the early 1970's, Yorgan grew up in Cuba. At the time, Fidel Castro was already in power and communism was widespread. Yorgan's father, who had grown up in Cuba when it was still capitalist, opposed what Castro was doing. After several years of communism, he became tired of what the government was trying to do. Yorgan's father began to reject communism publicly and all that it entailed. In response, he was placed in jail along with other dissenters to the Cuban government. Ultimately, he was allowed out of jail, but he would have to leave the country. Yorgan's father was only allowed to bring with him the people currently living at his house. While this included Yorgan and Yorgan's sister, it did not include Yorgan's mother or uncle.

When Yorgan's father got the news that they would be leaving, he sat down with Yorgan. He told Yorgan that they must go, that Cuba was no place to prosper and that capitalism was the future. As long as they stayed in Cuba, they would be the recipients of dirty looks from nationalist neighbors. For these reasons they decided to come to the United States.

On February 5th, 2002, Yorgan flew to Cancun and then to Miami with his family. When they arrived, they quickly filled out all the necessary forms and showed all the necessary papers. After they were approved, they were grouped together with many other refugees coming to America. A man welcomed them and gave some spiel about freedom and opportunity. Then, he told each group of people to go to a different state. He sent one family to New York, one couple to Texas, and he sent Yorgan's group to Tennessee. Earlier, they had been told by an international director that they needed to go to Nebraska, but they liked the sound of Tennessee better so they flew to Nashville.

Since then, Yorgan has gotten a job working at MBA. He has sent some of the money he's earned back to relatives in Cuba, but until now the restrictions have

been harsh. As Yorgan described it, under the Bush administration, a Cuban American could only send 100 dollars per month to family in Cuba. Furthermore a Cuban American could only visit Cuba once every three years. In response to these restrictions, Castro took 20% of every money transfer to Cuba from the United States. This situation infuriated Yorgan because he was unable to provide for his struggling family in Cuba.

With the change in policy, Yorgan and thousands of other Cuban Americans will be able to send as much money as they want to friends or family in Cuba. When I asked him what he would like to see happen next, Yorgan responded that he specifically wanted the 20% taxes to be lifted. However, Yorgan was very excited in general and thought it was a great step towards better United States-Cuba relations. In particular, Yorgan thought that the Obama administration and the lifting of restrictions with Cuba will be wonderful for our relationship with Hugo Chavez and Venezuela.

My next set of questions dealt with how the relationship between the United States and Cuba could be further strengthened. Yorgan believed that the economic and political restrictions between the two countries were detrimental to good relations. He said that many Cubans, especially those already in the United States, do not like Castro. Their ties to the country are with their families, not the government. For these reasons, they oppose any sort of embargo because they understand how it hurts their families.

If Obama wants to create better relations with Cuba, he has to talk to people like Yorgan, who grew up in Cuba and understand the situation. Yorgan described to me if Cuba is ever going to change, it will take a long time. In the heart of Cuba, there is no communication with the outside world. There is nothing to tell these people of another way of life where they are free to live and prosper as they see fit. The only voice talking to them is Castro's administration-whispering lies about the evils of American society.

The people in Cuba don't hear the horror stories that occur every day. One such story Yorgan remembers describes how a man tried to steal another man's chickens and was killed on the spot. This story displays not only the obliviousness of the average Cuban, but also the desperation. A man was so hungry that he tried to steal food, even if failure meant death. This story is what happens when people are getting paid only 145 pesos (about 5 dollars) per month. Cuba must change to succeed.

One area of retreat for Yorgan throughout his life has always been music. Growing up, his mother played the piano and his father played the drums, so he was surrounded by music at an early age. After

learning to play the claves, he went to Jose Blanco High School where he learned music for half the day and then took classes in math, science, geography for the other half.

After he graduated, he was a music teacher for a while. It was at this time that he experienced the poverty that comes with a 145 pesos per month salary. Since then,

he has continued to practice music, playing everything from symphony music to secular music to salsa music. He can play piano, drums, base, and saxophone. Currently he plays the piano in a church band at Fresca Union Pentacost Church.

Yorgan loves life. He wants those in Cuba to enjoy a life they can love.



Yorgan plays the piano at Fresca Union Pentacost Church.



Congratulations to Luke Colbert for winning the Founders Day Race!

Sartre Sees No Essence Before Existence

by
Thomas Moore
Staff Ontologist

MBA's Philosophy Club last convened to discuss the ideas and works of French existentialist philosopher, playwright, novelist, and political activist Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-80). Although, alas, coinciding engagements prevented my attendance at this lofty gathering of the greatest philosophical minds yet produced by this institute, I shall not be deterred in my enterprise of relating existential knowledge to the uninitiated crowd by drawing upon my own humble comprehension of Sartre's life and thought.

Jean-Paul Sartre, together with his lifelong companion Simone de Beauvoir, questioned and challenged his accepted, bourgeois surroundings and made evident the dangers of mindless, oppressive conformity which he termed *mauvaise foi*, or "bad faith."

Instead, Sartre emphasized in his earlier writings the importance of "an authentic way of being," primarily through his insistence on the inherent qualities of human freedom. While he was content, in his early career, to play the role of intellectually liberal observer, his later life was marked by an increasingly active engagement in politics, as his association with such other communist intellectuals as Che Guevara indicates.

The foundation of Sartre's existentialism lies in his assertion that any direct consciousness of the "thing-in-itself" represents an entity entirely infinite and overflowing. Sartre refers to such an ontological understanding as "pre-reflective consciousness."

In order to create order out of the chaos presented by the world, Sartre noted, human nature constantly tries to describe, understand, and categorize the "thing-in-itself," an action which he termed "reflective consciousness." Sartre stated that reflection in this manner undermines the inherently superior pre-reflective state of self-awareness, i.e. reflective categorization, whether scientific, artistic, or otherwise, in fact stifles the thing-in-itself through its attempt to reach self-knowledge. Therefore, a venture toward self-understanding, according to Sartre, is an ultimately futile exercise, no matter how many times attempted.

Sartre held similar ideas in regard to "the Other," which, simply, is all things or beings external from the self. He maintained that the self needs "the Other" as a reference point to confirm and to display its own existence. In this way, Sartre saw the self as demonstrating an innate masochistic desire to be compared to and limited by the awareness of other subjects. He expressed this idea in his famous statement, "Hell is other people."

One main idea of Sartre is that we, as humans, are "condemned to be free." He explained this belief through his atheistic, paper-knife example, which runs as follows: if one were to consider a paper-knife, one could assume that the creator had a predetermined purpose, or essence, for the object. Since, though, Sartre's philosophy allows for no such creator, human existence contains no essence before existence, i.e.

"existence precedes essence." In this way, human beings have complete freedom to perceive their essence on an individual level, and, thereby, become gods themselves.

"Sartre," stated Wesley Wilson when asked to offer his viewpoint, "opened up a new level of human inquiry by dismissing our archaic fundamentalism. He opened up a space in which we are free to decide the meaning of what Nietzsche called 'the Abyss.' Only when we accept this meaninglessness are we able to grasp fully our freedom and determine what the world means to us individually."

In his novel *La Nausée*, Sartre observes that because inanimate objects remain indifferent to human existence, they are resistant to and unaffected by whatever meaning or significance human perspective might impose upon them. This indifference "in things themselves" serves further to highlight Sartre's insistence on human freedom. Everything we as humans observe is, he states, imbued with a special meaning that represents our individual perspectives.

The title of the book refers to the sense of nausea that one feels upon realizing one's intricate engagement with the world through a relationship that cannot be broken or escaped. In his writing, Sartre developed this idea further by presenting the coincidental, arbitrary situations in which people are often thrown, and the increased absurdity that results when human beings try to deal with these situations rationally. Indeed, an entire Theatre of the Absurd resulted, the prime example of which being the works of Eugène Ionesco, whose play *Jack, or The Submission* was recently performed on campus.

Because of Sartre's overarching concern for human freedom, he often found it difficult to reconcile his social philosophical agenda with radical Marxism. When he began to steer away from Marxist doctrine and to promote his own existentialism, the French Communist Party was outraged. Sartre felt that Marxism would have inhibited his notions of individual freedom and that to align himself too closely with one party would have also undermined his ideals. Because of his fluid perception of history and culture, he believed in the process of continual reinvention.

This pragmatic view allowed him to shift his beliefs in accordance with the changing events around him. On an intellectual front, because he did not follow radical dogma, he was able "to subvert the bases for distinctions among disciplines," and thereby possess a wide range of knowledge.

Later in his life, Sartre was confronted by the monopolizing aspects of mass media, which challenged the printed word as a form of expression. Sartre believed that "traditional bourgeois literary forms were innately superior," and he constantly fought against the media tycoons who would destroy the role of the intellectual in society. He believed that it was the intellectual's task to observe current political and social surroundings, in order to exercise human freedom by speaking out against injustices.



The late, great French existentialist, Jean-Paul Sartre

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John Lanier Lives The Legend

by
Alex Apple
Sports Editor and Staff Lanierophile

MBA legend John Lanier claims to have come to MBA in 1929, though some stories place him at MBA at about 1972. He is one of only two soccer coaches in MBA history. He is a native of LA (Lower Alabama) and attended Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. He later graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in nuclear physics, or maybe it was mathematics.

The Lanier estate is located in Hillsboro Village, where he has "a five million dollar condo with various artwork, antique rugs, sculptures, and Salvador Dali originals."

He began playing international football his senior year in high school and played soccer for twenty years after he graduated. He has also been an avid golfer since he began playing at age six.

His favorite story, besides winning the 1981 state championship over Ryan 4-3, occurs when he was at Signal Mountain golf course in Chattanooga. He approached a par 3 where, from the tee box, he could only see the top two feet of the flag. After hitting his shot and walking up to the ball, he could not find his ball. He, therefore, began cursing all around the green looking for the darn ball. After several minutes of looking, he walked up to the cup, muttering more words under his breath, and found his Titleist 2 in the hole.

Coach Lanier is famous at MBA for his interesting teaching styles, specifically for the silent class. When asked about his reasons for the silent class, he responded, "I find that troops get bored, and the silent class gets them to pay better attention." In 1932, some of his students thought he was getting boring, and when he did the silent class, they did not talk back, which made for a very interesting class.

As our interview went forward, Coach Lanier graciously sat for more questions. Here are some quick hits:

Boxers or Briefs? - "Rrrrgg. Can't

answer."

Chinese Food? - "Not a problem."
Car? - "A 330 CI, a 6 speed manual."

Like to go 100 mph? - "Well I can't comment on that."

Favorite Golf Course? - "Golf Club of Tennessee or wonderful McCabe National."

Favorite other faculty members? - "Coach Kelly or Coach Rundberg."

Favorite place visited? - "Well it would have to be a golf course, of course. Melrose Golf Course off Hilton Head."

I then asked Coach Lanier to describe the following people in one phrase:

Coach Pruitt - "Dumbledorf."
Coach Kelly - "I can't say what I am thinking."

Bill Clinton - "Slick Willy."
Golfer John Daly - "Find a life."
Jack Nicklaus - "Second best golfer ever."

Coach Cheevers - "Intense."
Houston Oldham - "A great and thoughtful individual."

His mom - "The kindest person I have ever known."

His Dad - "Strict but fair."
Benito Mussolini - "Idiot!"
Andy Gaither - "An MBA stalwart."
Archimedes - "1000's of years ahead of his time."

Now let's get serious about MBA's soccer team. Coach Lanier said, "This year's team is a very unique team with its own identity. Houston Oldham is an exceptional player, and our defense is very good. Each team is exciting and finds success if they respect and work for each other."

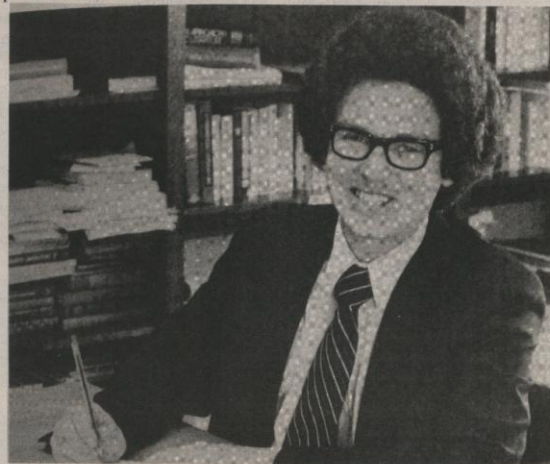
Coach Lanier is flanked by assistant Coach Giles Cheevers, an outstanding motivator. Coach Lanier described him as one of, if not the best assistant coach he has ever had. "He is intense and a great motivator of

the guys."

MBA holds a record of 7-1 as the playoffs come near. The Big Red is a very potent team and will need solid contribu-

tions from seniors Matt Wieck, Will Overton, and Max Jarrell, as well as from junior Turner Henderson.

Roll Red!



Coach Lanier basking in the glory of his afro



Coach Lanier's 8011th state soccer trophy

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Faculty Dunks Seniors For Charity Money

by
Michael Seitz

Staff Basketball Star and Associate News Editor

On Thursday, April 16th, MBA faculty and seniors laced up for the second annual Charity Basketball game to benefit Thistle Farms. The battle for bragging rights was extremely successful, raising over \$1,300.

From the opening tip, the faculty, led by former college, NBA, and NFL athletes, dominated the seniors. Even after a "scoreboard malfunction" swapped the halftime scores and made their 20-point lead a 20-point deficit, the faculty still won the game. Like last year, Matt Golenor was the most determined to raise money. He threw boomerangs, performed backflips and somersaults, and committed flagrant fouls on his way to raising over \$100 in advisory pledges.

The highlight of the game definitely came from basketball coach, student affairs director, and current ABA superstar Ronnie McMahan. After coasting for most of the game, the ex-Chicago Bull made Curry Gym explode in a matter of seconds. He sunk a fade away ABA range 3 pointer, stole the ensuing in-bounds pass seconds later, and then swished an NBA range 3-pointer, all without breaking a sweat.

Daniel McGugin, Jonas Rodriguez, J.P. Bernatavitz, Zac Hood, and Vanderbilt legend Kevin Anglin also displayed impressive shooting and made the nets sing all

night. These guys can shoot 3-pointers.

The juniors led the student section with creativity, chanting "hooked on phonics!" after Dr. Kinch made a half-court shot during halftime.

Despite the loss, several students had notable games. Juniors Holden Mobley and Luke Colbert filled in well for 3-sport star Spencer Wise, who had prior baseball commitments, according to his agent. Fresh out of AAU practice, Mobley demonstrated his shooting range and was easily the most outstanding baller for the student team.

Also outstanding: despite the faculties' physical, football-like play, Luke Colbert refrained from getting a technical foul. The most surprising player for the seniors was Reed Stanberry, whose slick ball-handling was last seen when he was on the eighth grade basketball team. Joseph "Bruce Pearl" Sloan, wearing a blazer over his white t-shirt, coached valiantly before accepting defeat. Maybe if he had sweated like Coach Pearl, better play would have come from his players.

With two very successful games having now been played, let's hope this charity event will become an annual MBA spring tradition. It is a lot of fun and generates a lot of money and good will.



Coach Golenor rolls around on the court. It was all for charity.



Coach Mac pulls up to sink yet another 3-pointer.

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Talent Show Showcases MBA Creativity

by
Jimmie Anderson
Staff Reporter

This year's MBA Talent Show on April 16th debuted some remarkable bands and acts. On a beautiful evening in the quad about 80 fans gathered for the fun, their senses aroused by the prospect of great entertainment and the wafting scent of freshly popped popcorn.

Starting off the Talent Show was a diverse band, "Seizure Salad", composed of seniors Hicks Woolwine, Paschal Davis, and Jeff Francis and juniors Mac Frith and Matt Bellet, who were outfitted in everything from seersucker suits to pirate garb. They warmed up the crowd with some good songs, including hits from the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Following them was the sophomore band, "Stan vs. Wild." This crew of sophomores Tom Markham, Carter Callaway, and John Wyse demoed original songs, as well as a cover song or two.

As far as actual talent, Charlie Watkins gave a humorous stand-up routine, with impersonations and classic one-liners. Charlie certainly didn't yield to anyone in the talent category.

"Dunamis" next took the stage. This sophomore band strummed out original heavy metal songs, which were filled with sweeps, riffs, and power chords.

Next was the senior band, "In Case of Fire," Barrett "Teardrop" Jacques, Brandon "Damien" Dockery, Taylor "Trujillo"

Land, and Baker "PW" Mulherin made a stunning performance with a fantastic sound and ended up winning the talent show. They played a number of classic song covers and brought an intense energy to the stage. The final band of juniors, led by Adrian Carey, Mike Gedelman, and some USN kids, closed the show with another performance, featuring cover songs of Tennessee's own native band, "Kings of Leon."

The Bell Ringer was able to interview the sophomore band, "Dunamis," after the show. Lead guitarist and co-composer, Cooper Thomas answers.

Q: How did "Dunamis" get started?

A: Ryan (Hill) and I started to jam beginning of freshman year. Then we played with our drummer, Phillip Duryee (Brentwood Academy).

Q: To what schools do your bassist and singer, both of whom unfortunately couldn't make the show, go?

A: Danny Gosciniak, our vocalist, goes to BHS. He joined the band in February this year. Caleb Cunningham, the bassist, goes to CPA and also joined the band in February.

Q: How many shows has "Dunamis" done?

A: We have played 3 shows. We also have the Barn show on May 1st coming

up. By the way, we are a Christian Metal Band.

Q: Who composes your songs?

A: Ryan and I compose the songs.

Q: Do you all plan on recording at

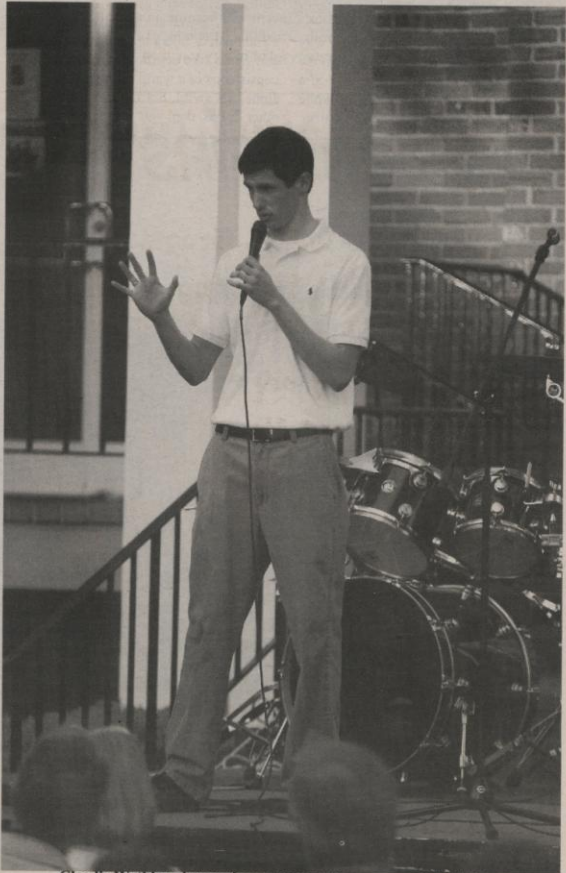
some point?

A: We plan on recording before summer.

You can check out "Dunamis" online at their MySpace at: www.myspace.com/dunamis615.



"Stan vs. Wild" performs, under the power of Tom Markham as lead vocalist.



Charlie Watkins gives an impressive performance, as Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Charles Barkley, etc.



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Reviewers Visit Restaurant Near The Zoo— Vegetarian Dishes Considered

By
Sully Mehio & Wyatt Redd
Staff Foodies

A restaurant sited next to the Nashville Zoo would inspire second thoughts about any meat dishes, unless you're like us, and meat is the main staple of your diet (regardless of where it comes from)!

Let us tell you how to get to Abay Ethiopian Cuisine: you drive to the plaza in front of the Nashville Zoo, go around to the side, and you should see a window painted with the words "Abay Ethiopian Cuisine" (look, also, for cars with Ethiopian flags -- they have lions on them.) Look at the window because there aren't any neon signs or anything. Not to worry -- to make up for it, the restaurant (quote from website): "features free parking", as most stores do which share a parking lot with other stores in a stripmall.

If you haven't been scared off yet, then we know that you know well the meaning of "not judging a book by its cover." The interior of the restaurant is actually quite nice -- it's quiet, casual, and still manages to give you the sense of being in a foreign country, like, uhmmm, Ethiopia. In a way it's a lot like being in Ethiopia; you get the same feeling you would if you were in a country with a natural suspicion of white people and who speak very little English.

Maybe it's because of all the pictures of Ethiopia hanging on the walls.

Oh, and one thing to remember: the menu is not in English. I think that the language is Amharic, which has Semitic roots and looks like a mix between Hindi and Hebrew letters. They do use English letters, also, but they use them to spell out Amharic words, so it's not much help, you basically have to guess. We ordered the first item on the menu, which was really good, so if you don't know what to get, get that one. I think our waiter called it the "combo". As for drinks, they have water and Coke products. They probably have something more Ethiopian, like Ethiopian coffee, but don't quote me on that because the menu isn't in English.

If you've never had Ethiopian food before, it tastes like a mix of Moroccan, Indian, and Middle Eastern food. It's a little spicy and, despite its small serving portions, it fills you up really quickly.

The staff started out by bringing us a giant pan of injera bread -- it's flat, moist, and tastes like sourdough bread with the consistency of a warm sponge. If you eat it alone, it's awful, but if you eat it with the other dishes, then you'll be in business.

They gave us four small bowls of spicy, strange-looking food. The first dish was a dark-red spicy broth that came with an oven-roasted chicken leg and a hard-boiled egg (this one was my favorite). The second dish was a spicy cabbage & beef stew (I think) that tasted much better than it sounds. The third dish was a bowl of chunks of lamb meat, stewed with green peppers in a smooth, hot broth (if you have not had lamb meat before, this restaurant is a great place to start). The fourth dish is difficult to describe: the best I can say is that it was orange, paste-like in texture, contained beef cubes (maybe?) and onion, and tasted like Indian curry.

Don't put down the paper yet: I got a side dish too. It was called a sambosa, which is basically a samosa with an Ethiopian twist to it. I got the vegetarian

one, which was stuffed with rice and lentils. One other thing I forgot to mention: their menu is split into lunch & dinner, meat & vegetarian, and also has several other crazy side dishes.

We were absolutely stuffed. Of course, you're probably wondering how much all of this food cost us. Ten bucks. We didn't feel like we were being cheated out of authenticity at all: it was beyond anything we had ever eaten before. We gave it 4.5 out of 5 poached zoo animals from the Nashville Zoo. We left them a generous tip and got back into our car, satisfied with the great meal, the small bill, and, who could forget, our free parking.

(Also, I brought the food home to my family and my brother poured peptobismal on it, not necessarily relevant, but kind of weird nonetheless.)



The Ethiopian flag is central to Abay's charm.

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Chile Burrito: There Is No Better Burrito

by
Wyatt Redd
Staff Burritista

Chile Burrito offers one of the best eating experiences you will ever have. However, like any epic quest, the road to the golden burrito is fraught with peril. Like the Tibetan *Book of the Dead* the following document will keep you safe from the numerous traps and dangers you face. Embrace it. Perhaps you could roll it tightly and keep it tied around your neck. Prepare yourself for the ancient and arcane knowledge of: *Wyatt's Book of Burritos*.

First, as you walk in the door, look to your left; follow the line until you reach the counter. Here you shall meet the Burrito Crafters, not so much men as heroes, descended from the burrito gods themselves. It is their favor you must first seek. Step forward humbly and avoid eye contact at all costs. You may now request a burrito of one of three sizes: 10 inches in diameter, 12 inches, and the prodigious 16-inch burrito, the king among burritos, unrivaled in size.

Now you shall be asked three questions. First, "Beans and cheese?", the great one will ask. You must answer "yes", and take one step to your right. Here you shall be asked, "What kind of meat?" You will see before you chicken and steak, as well as ground beef. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU EVER ASK FOR CHICKEN! GET THE STEAK! This

is the first trap you shall meet. You may be tempted by some natural taste for chicken which is as great as Chile Burrito itself is, but for some reason, this chicken tastes like charcoal; don't try it; it is inedible.

Now you shall be asked to specify what you would like to put on your burrito. Ask for the following: sour cream, lettuce, and hot salsa. This hot salsa is the most important. Unlike its chunkier cousin, the medium salsa, the hot has a soup-like consistency that complements the taste of the

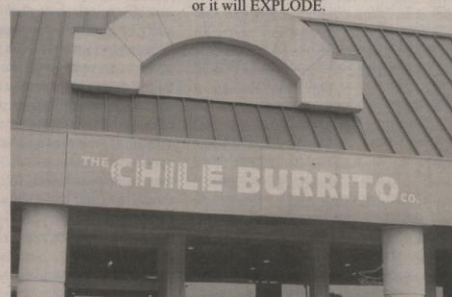
burrito without being particularly spicy. DO NOT FORGET TO ASK FOR THE HOT SALSA. An unlubricated burrito is not only tasteless, but a danger to your esophagus, which must be sufficiently moist to absorb the burrito. If you should neglect to ask for the salsa, the Heroes behind the counter will look towards each other with knowing glances and shake their heads in quiet condemnation of your hubris.

Now step to forward to the Great Cashier and ask for chips and a drink. Now

comes the most critical part -- ask for a queso. It comes in large and medium, medium should be enough for the burrito and most of the chips. Once you have paid, take your burrito to one of the many tables and open the foil. Now, there are two schools of thought on the proper way to eat a burrito. You can either open it to allow a better coverage when you put hot sauce and queso on it, or you can eat the burrito and administer the cheese and sauce as you eat. Either way, do not set the burrito down after the first bite, or it will EXPLODE.



The festive inside of Chile Burrito



Chile Burrito's welcoming facade.

Let's Make Sage Food Into Your Food

By
Sully Mehio
Staff Nutritionist

Los Nachos de la Muerte: Either the high levels of fat or the high levels of sodium in this dish will kill you. But, hey, I put vegetables in it (jalapenos), so it's not like I'm responsible for any liability issues regarding your health or anything.

Get a full plate of those chips that look like Ruffles. (Ruffles have ridges, if you can't tell the chips apart)

Put a handful of shredded cheese on it.

Add some jalapenos and diced tomatoes, and that's the basic dish.

Now, here's the beauty of nachos: add whatever you want. Pinto beans, black olives, and shredded lettuce tend to work best, unless it's one of those days when the pinto beans smell like tobacco. Don't eat that.

For sides, get these three: guacamole, sour cream, and the CHUNKY salsa (there is a clear distinction here). The other salsa is okay, but these nachos were originally created to be accompanied by the chunky salsa.

The Club Logan: Every issue will now sport one recipe made by YOU, the readers -- congratulations Wyatt Redd on bringing us the first feature recipe of this article! The Club Logan is an eccentric but tasty assortment of sandwich items that are meant to reflect Logan's erratic but lovable behavior. Enjoy the taste of a Logan.

Turkey
Ham
Blue Cheese
Balsamic Dressing

Olive Oil
Banana Peppers
"Discreetly" add a hint of yellow mustard

Peanut Butter & Honey Matzo Sandwich: Bread has walked hand-in-hand with food since Neolithic times. In fact, the ancient Jewish sage Hillel the Elder is rumored to have put Paschal lamb meat and herbs in between two loaves of matzo bread during Passover. This wonderful dessert is a spin-off based on this timeless classic.

2 squares of matzo crackers
Generously apply peanut butter
Generously apply honey
Don't forget the milk!

From this issue onward, I want to feature one of YOUR creations in this article! E-mail me, or find me at lunch or something, and I will select a winner for each issue.



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Time Travel Misses Its Destination

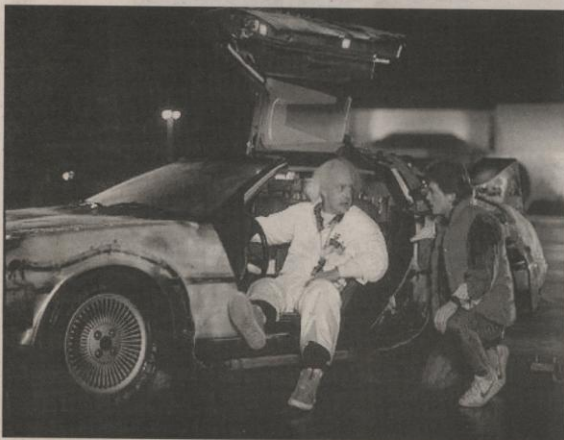
by
Jimmy Balser
Entertainment Editor

Anyone with basic cultural knowledge knows that when a movie or television character hops into a time machine, he is possibly doomed to sleep with a grandparent. Incest is one of the more disturbing ways that the paradox of time travel is parodied on the screen, but rarely is the confusion involved ever made clear to the viewer. Usually the logic gaps are explained away with humor and buried. But the recent explosion of time travel prominence has motivated some writers to go deeper. Unfortunately, what appears to be a fresh twist almost always ends up disappointing.

In the UK's long-running program "Dr Who", the time-traveling alien known only as "The Doctor", explains the universe's chronology as "a sphere of timey-whimey energy". In this program, the continuity of events must fall down a path with only so much deviation. But since time is a sphere instead of a line, a person may affect the outcome of events. Still, only certain details can be changed, or the altering of time will lead to some sort of universal catastrophe.

The rules deviate some from the "Back to the Future" logic of bending time into any shape. It is disturbing to think that any detail of the future can be changed by the whim of one person. If the past, and therefore the future, can be re-made completely, then all theory of fate and pre-destiny is thrown out the window. Most philosophical questions concerning the existence of a god are burned there, too. At least a clockwork god seems unlikely in a reality that has no consistent timeline. The ideas involved here are scary, as in: you might wake up as your own father in a world ruled by 50-foot tall Nazis - scary.

Maybe the viewing public has lost a bit of its nerve since the days of the "Twilight Zone". That reality was capable of being molded into just about anything.



"Time travel sure isn't as simple as it used to be."

Today's audience prefers a more comfortable alternative.

On television's "Lost" characters joke about the dilemma of running around the past. So far, though, the show has given the impression that no amount of meddling can alter the time-line. History has already been written, and a person's fate is pre-destined. The new show "Life on Mars" also gives little hint at the possibility of alternate realities of potential for change. When shows leave no room for consequence involved in time travel, its use as a storytelling device is reduced to a gimmick. It is only a "What if?" answer that is no more advanced than a character waking up from a dream at the end of an episode. Characters may face interesting questions about what they will do with their lives in a different time. However, these shows almost never extend the philosophical questions that brings discomfiture to a carefully contrived sitcom setting.

It can be argued that time travel is just a backdrop to the character relationships and drama that should make up the meat of a show. If this is true, then writers shouldn't be using time-travel as a last ditch attempt to throw the viewer a new spin. The temporal paradox that holds so much potential has been reduced to a joke. Meanwhile, today's time-traveling heroes live in a world where they can never accomplish anything. The writers have opened one door, while closing every other. There can be no going back in time to kill Hitler, save your parents, or find out next week's lottery numbers in a stable time loop.

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One-Acts Won The Audience

by
Thaleia Melpomene
Staff Muse

Well, what can you say about one-act plays?! Descriptions abound: bizarre, absurd, intense, loud, shallow, subtle, overstatements, understatement. Whatever human interactions are a one-act play will portray...or, perhaps, x-ray.

MBA's theater class produced four one-act plays this past weekend. On Friday, April 24th, when this reviewer attended, good numbers of theater-lovers attended and with great enthusiasm indicated their pleasure with the productions. Without exception all the actors had mastered their roles and their lines, and without doubt all the actors possessed the spirit and enthusiasm necessary to make the plays work. When such a love of the theater is displayed, it does not matter if an audience is sitting in a Broadway theater or in a small theater in Nashville. He will be captivated and transported into the show.

Only minimally reluctant to be judgmental, we must award the best-of-show award to the first play of the evening, mainly because director Nick Caprioli did such a fine job manipulating so many players around and about the stage. Also, the play provided more humor, a more overt message, and certainly a more diverse cast of characters. Director Caprioli led his remarkable cast to just the right tone and level. Especially fun were the darkness-obsessed

and vision, but watching monkeys on stage is tough...especially so soon after watching Kafka's insect on this very stage just a few weeks ago.

Speaking of Kafka's insect, Will Holt directed the third play of the evening. This little play by Christopher Durang, a very talented and multi-faceted gentleman of the theater world, finds Dalton Fouts and Elizabeth Floyd playing a mature couple visiting his mother at Christmas. The mother, played by Mary Hampton Elam, is frantic and desperate, trying to provoke and alienate her daughter-in-law, who has recently lost five children in a car wreck. Curiously, during the play, John (Dalton) finds himself weary of the color scheme of his suit and tie, leaves to change, and returns in a dress. The dress is the exact style as his wife's, and from this point we learn that John wants to be just like his wife, in speech and manner. Dalton just did not seem, ummmm, comfortable in the dress, for some reason. Maybe Ben should have returned for this part. After this play, we asked a learned and experienced theater-goer what the meaning of all this was. He indulged a pensive moment, then replied, "I don't know." Well, it's all in how we find the definition of ourselves, isn't it?

The evening ended with another



Kafka, Swift, and Milton work on writing *Hamlet*.

Goths, played by Aaron Ardisson, Hoke Smith, and Hunter Woolwine. Ben Sutter gave us a refreshing new look at himself as a rather flamboyant gay youth, and Ryan Penney was, as always, dominant on the stage. Andrew Wright, as Dr. Feet, was spot on, and Jamie Joyce played a really tough role, that of a fairly normal young fellow.

Before going further, we must acknowledge senior Barrett Jacques. Where has he been for the past four years of MBA theater productions?! This student has it all. Yet, only this weekend has his talent been offered to the audience. This boy can act. He was in two of the shows, albeit playing a monkey in one of them. Still, he knows how to work a stage and a role. He was fun to watch.

Ben Gregory directed this second play, a David Ives piece offering his interpretation of the idea that even monkeys can write Shakespeare, given a typewriter, enough time, and plenty of bananas. Ben, along with his actors Matt Moynihan and Barrett Jacques, provided us with energy

screamer...too loud. Alex Martin directed this play by everyone's favorite one-act writer Eugene Ionesco. Alex, with Mr. Ionesco's words and shouts and absurdist interactions, helped us appreciate that anyone can eventually connect; it just takes time and the right person. From this play comes the best actress of the evening, and the award must go to Willa Fitzgerald. She possesses the rare talent of moving her hands and body in fluid and natural concert with her lines. One can't take his eyes off her. Daniel Smith, Lewis Armistead, and Connor Hastings all played fine supporting parts; Connor especially was fun to watch, unsteadily moving about the background. Ed Powell played Willa's father, and Ed was a little loud for our taste, but he does have an anomalously strong stage presence.

So, the evening was grand. All who saw the shows and all who participated in the plays should give a special thanks to Dr. Fuller, who provided the impetus and instruction which made the plays work.

Senior Scene Starts To Darken As Lights Go Dim

by Fadi Pulous
News Editor

Put down your hamburgers, and indulge in another monthly update of the senior class. Many things come to mind when you think about what your seniors are doing. I am here to tell a great tale of the wonderful adventures of the seniors. Ranging from college decisions to potential population growth studies to fake senior prank ideas, the senior class has been staying busy.

Hicks Woolwine has been keeping busy with his band, **Seizure Salad**, for the past couple of weeks. They had a great debut at the MBA Talent show. Hicks is also looking at attending Sewanee unless things work out at Vandy. Best of luck, Hicks!

Connor Shope informs me that he'll be attending the University of Virginia next year, and he also thinks that releasing a flock of wild turkey's into the science building would be a memorable idea.

Michael Nunan saved **Brandon Dockery's** life twice on the soccer field over the past few weeks. Michael Nunan prevented Docks from falling over the two, isolated dog-on-field incidents, which we all know could have had serious repercussions for everyone involved.

Houston has decided to dress **Robbie Alsentzer** up very nicely and give him to **Mr. Gioia** and the school as our senior gift. Houston argues Robbie's cuteness will surely makeup for the senior class's lack of \$\$\$\$.

Any rumors circulating about **Ryan King** attending Harvard may be true, as well. **Ed P.**, one-act superstar, will be heading to UChicago and wants everyone to know that Envirothon and Chorus have state competitions next week. Good luck, Ed!

The Tennis team is having a great season led by **Chris Anderson**, **Richard Brunsting**, and **Leland Bandlow**. These

three broskis are contributing very much to the teams recent successes.

Jeff Francis, senior class ambassador to the leprechauns/ Ireland, will be heading to the University of Florida. He does not wish to disclose any senior-prank details.

As usual, **Will Holt** typed in some inane drivel and hit reply to the *Bell Ringer* e-mail with this devastating information, "i will be quitting the study of theater to pursue my devout interest in population growth. **Mr. Morrison**, **Matt Ractliffe's** mom, **Michael Nunan**, and I will be studying the effects of **Will Rowland's** biceps on population growth (Will's biceps need more room to grow than a school house of Canadians)." Will proceeded to laugh at his own joke.

Rhett Wallace is packing up his entire farm and bringing it to school on college t-shirt day instead of wearing a college t-shirt. Rhett has a real future in the farm industry.

Finally, no paper is complete without an update of **Karl "Guitar Hero" Mecklenborg**, who has received many accolades about his magic fingers. He will be putting on a show every Friday or Saturday night for those of you looking to waste twenty minutes of your time. Disclaimer: This show is not for those faint at heart, as vomiting is commonly induced.

Well, this article is a brief summary of specifics from some standouts in the senior class. Don't forget that spring sports are upon us and every team could use the support, ranging from lacrosse to soccer. Seeing as those of you that have read this terrible article all the way to the end, you clearly must have some time to go out so come out and support these teams in their respective state tournaments.



Team Shope and Team Andrews enjoy the senior father-son breakfast.

Juniors Are Bringing It On Home

by
Will Henry
Staff News Writer

As the year commences its final lap, the juniors are in the lead, racing for the prize. With the juniors distinguished in so many areas, it's hard to know where to begin.

For starters, **Robinson Hunt** is now driving again. Yay, Robinson!

Athletically, the juniors are a forceful presence. In a nail-biter, **Luke Colbert** came out on top in the Founder's Day Race, bringing home the second win for the class of 2010. Also, several juniors including **Steven Gaittens**, **Kyle Brantley**, **Mac Frith**, **Joseph Lowe**, and **Sam Moxley** are competing in the state Ultimate tournament this weekend at the USN River campus.

Campbell Haynes was spotted texting everyone "Eric, Evan, Elliot", the three Berry brothers. He's found peace with a new holy trinity.

All the exchange students have now left our midst. So sad! They were all so cool. **Andrew Mitchelmore** was the bee's knees. **Will Henry** now cries himself to sleep ever since Andrew's exodus.

Thomas Moore has been implementing a classical poet's agenda into his life. He excitedly comments, "It was followed by Vergil, Milton, and Keats, and involves the steeping of oneself in pastoral, lyrical forms, before, after ten years, moving on to tackle the epic genre." I just found some lint in my belly button.

Ben Mecklenborg is enthralled with his discovery of the word "transgenger," a person who dyes his hair red. She uses tangerines.

Charles Herron and **John Michael McGinn** battled some pink robots at the Flaming Lips show last Saturday. Charles comments, "It was probably the most spiritual thing I have ever been a part of."

Lewis Armistead was recently confirmed.

The Big Red rifle team won the Junior Olympic Qualifying Match. Among the shooters were juniors **Alex "Wanna see how fast I can go on my motorcycle?" Fettrill** and **Mitchell "Dinosaurs are forever" Lukens**, who will both be competing in nationals at Camp Perry this summer.

Speaking of dinosaurs, sources inform me that **Alex Snow** is now courting **Natalie Glazer**.

John Lowe, **Lewis Armistead**, and **Joshua Liang** are starting a cooking club. Stay tuned for more to come! **Joshua Liang** now grows his own herb garden, including basil, sage, and marjoram. In addition, he also has a germinating eggplant. If that's not exciting, I honestly don't know what is.

In other news, **Holden Mobley** was "killed" by **Coach Barclay** in physics class when he pulled up a picture of a girl Holden had shaken hands with. Wow. **Alex Karpas** was verbally assaulted by a Duke fan. See him for more details. Also, **Jordan Herring** has officially cut all the sleeves from all his t-shirts, which now qualifies him for admission into the Redneck Hall of Fame.

Lastly, **Jackson Roberts** wants everyone to know that he is back at school, and that no, he is, in fact, NOT CONTAGIOUS. That's terrific, I forgot I asked.

Freshmen Come Together And Break Up

by
Joe Scherrer
Staff Freshman

Our first year of high school has been a rewarding experience for many. As the year draws to a close, let's stay focused and look forward to summer.

Connor Yakushi, **Winn Van Cleave**, **Tim Bulso**, **Matt Anderson**, and **Adam Hawiger** competed last weekend at the State Rifle Tournament hosted by MBA. So far, the MBA rifle team has won 12 state championships in a row.

Fifty-one freshmen received gold medals on the National Latin Exam. **Karthik Sastry** and **Holt Akers-Cambell** both wrote perfect papers.

The Marshmallow Jex, the band

of **John Elam**, **Noah Fardon**, and **Aaron Ardisson**, has broken up. **John Elam** says, "I had nothing to do with anything."

After the breakup of **The Marshmallow Jex**, a new band has appeared on the freshman scene - **The Moderates**, consisting of **Hunter Woolwine**, **Maclin Davis**, and **Blair Griffith**. For those who are interested, they are having a concert on June 6.

Congratulations to **John Mark Bellet**, **Warren Lipscomb**, **Scott Dalton**, **Jonathan McClelland**, **Jack Whitson**, and **Daniel Mace** for winning the sophomore Student Government elections.

Time Travel Misses Its Destination

by
Jimmy Balsar
Entertainment Editor

Anyone with basic cultural knowledge knows that when a movie or television character hops into a time machine, he is possibly doomed to sleep with a grandparent. Incest is one of the more disturbing ways that the paradox of time travel is parodied on the screen, but rarely is the confusion involved ever made clear to the viewer. Usually the logic gaps are explained away with humor and buried. But the recent explosion of time travel prominence has motivated some writers to go deeper. Unfortunately, what appears to be a fresh twist almost always ends up disappointing.

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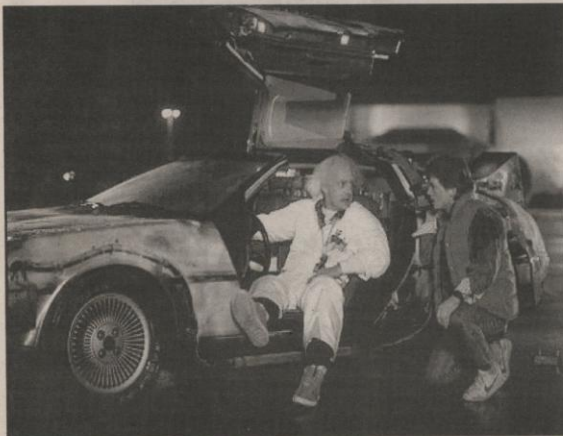
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Only minimally reluctant to be judgmental, we must award the best-of-show award to the first play of the evening, mainly because director Nick Caprioli did such a fine job manipulating so many players around and about the stage. Also, the play provided more humor, a more overt message, and certainly a more diverse cast of characters. Director Caprioli led his remarkable cast to just the right tone and level. Especially fun were the darkness-obsessed

and vision, but watching monkeys on stage is tough...especially so soon after watching Kafka's insect on this very stage just a few weeks ago.

Speaking of Kafka's insect, Will Holt directed the third play of the evening. This little play by Christopher Durang, a very talented and multi-faceted gentleman of the theater world, finds Dalton Fouts and Elizabeth Floyd playing a mature couple visiting his mother at Christmas. The mother, played by Mary Hampton Elam, is frantic and desperate, trying to provoke and alienate her daughter-in-law, who has recently lost five children in a car wreck. Curiously, during the play, John (Dalton) finds himself weary of the color scheme of his suit and tie, leaves to change, and returns in a dress. The dress is the exact style as his wife's, and from this point we learn that John wants to be just like his wife, in speech and manner. Dalton just did not seem, ummm, comfortable in the dress, for some reason. Maybe Ben should have returned for this part. After this play, we asked a learned and experienced theater-goer what the meaning of all this was. He indulged a pensive moment, then replied, "I don't know." Well, it's all in how we find the definition of ourselves, isn't it?

The evening ended with another



Kafka, Swift, and Milton work on writing Hamlet.

Goths, played by Aaron Ardisson, Hoke Smith, and Hunter Woolwine. Ben Sutter gave us a refreshing new look at himself as a rather flamboyant gay youth, and Ryan Penney was, as always, dominant on the stage. Andrew Wright, as Dr. Feet, was spot on, and Jamie Joyce played a really tough role, that of a fairly normal young fellow.

Before going further, we must acknowledge senior Barrett Jacques. Where has he been for the past four years of MBA theater productions?! This student has it all. Yet, only this weekend has his talent been offered to the audience. This boy can act. He was in two of the shows, albeit playing a monkey in one of them. Still, he knows how to work a stage and a role. He was fun to watch.

Ben Gregory directed this second play, a David Ives piece offering his interpretation of the idea that even monkeys can write Shakespeare, given a typewriter, enough time, and plenty of bananas. Ben, along with his actors Matt Moynihan and Barrett Jacques, provided us with energy

screamer...too loud. Alex Martin directed this play by everyone's favorite one-act writer Eugene Ionesco. Alex, with Mr. Ionesco's words and shouts and absurdist interactions, helped us appreciate that anyone can eventually connect; it just takes time and the right person. From this play comes the best actress of the evening, and the award must go to Willa Fitzgerald. She possesses the rare talent of moving her hands and body in fluid and natural concert with her lines. One can't take his eyes off her. Daniel Smith, Lewis Armistead, and Connor Hastings all played fine supporting parts; Connor especially was fun to watch, unsteadily moving about the background. Ed Powell played Willa's father, and Ed was a little loud for our taste, but he does have an anomalously strong stage presence.

So, the evening was grand. All who saw the shows and all who participated in the plays should give a special thanks to Dr. Fuller, who provided the impetus and instruction which made the plays work.

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Sophomores Love Spring

by
Andrew Powell
Staff News Writer

Exams and summer are quickly approaching, and the sophomore class is caught up in the fury of events during this hectic time of the year. From academics to athletics to attending concerts, the Class of 2011 has been very busy over the past few weeks and looks to get only busier in the weeks to come. Let's take a look at what's been haapnin':

I see no better way to start this article than with a statement from our noble president, "Chill" Phil Danieley – "Words of wisdom (from Sir Francis Bacon himself): Nature, to be controlled, must be obeyed." Thanks, Phil, very stirring tidbit of wisdom...

Anyway, now to important issues: Willy Bakes and Mitchell Shope had been getting psyched for State Ultimate Frisbee Tournament for about the past two years, which was played this past weekend. Despite Will missing Sunday for jv Lax action (Good D, Will!) and Shope for a piano recital (Thata boy, Shope) the Big Red Ultimate team came out on top, going undefeated through the entire two day tournament! Congrats to the 13 sophomore Ultimate studs, and Mason Foote.

Hayes McCord ran valiantly for the sophomore class in the recent Van Webb Founder's Day Race but came up just short in a photo finish (amidst some 'bows being thrown). Will McCaskill, in a similar feat of athleticism, caught one of the Founder's Day t-shirts thrown out by Coach Golenor. Congratulations to these two athletes.

Tom Markham, inspired by our recent studies of Church Latin, has declared a holy war in Dr. Seay's Latin III class. Currently, he tells me, the score is Protestants 2, Catholics 0.

Jack Hallemann and I recently got free ice cream from Ben & Jerry's for National Free Ice Cream Day. If only Free Ice Cream Day came more than once a year...

Russell Anderson has been up to basically nothing, he says, except for missing a lot of school to play/win tennis. He also would like to thank all the guys who

came down to the courts Friday to support the team.

John Sehr, class secretary extraordinaire, has been busy keeping the concession stands full, and asks anyone able to help out with this sophomore class responsibility to please lend a hand.

In unrelated news, as I was sitting in the lunch room this past Thursday, getting info for this article, I looked across to another table and saw Andrei Lucaci down an entire BLT pita in one bite, bringing back memories of his one-bite burrito from last issue. Two amazing feats – does anyone else see a new pep rally idea here?

On that same eventful Thursday, Nick Kohler wore a blue shirt, and Warren Smith tells me that he got to eat at McDougal's for lunch to send off the exchange student Andrew Michelmoore, a temporary member of Warren's advisory. Warren assures us all that it was very tasty.

When asked if he had anything to contribute to Bell Ringer news, Patrick Duffy ran away...

Dubsl Wyse tells me he got some new kicks but is having some serious troubles removing the pesky tag. Please help – reward! Whiz is also very excited about catching T.L.'s rag which he threw off stage at Rites of Spring, where Van East caught Dave Matthews tickets. On that note, Jack Warne would like to express his undying love for Dave Matthews' trumpet player. I can personally attest that both Rites of Spring and Dave Matthews were terrific shows.

Collin Brannon relayed a fascinating story to me for "Collin's True Story of the Week." Recently, while visiting the new Moe's, Collin came across a wondrous item called the Phil E. quesadilla. When he tasted it, he says, he was "moved by an image of Zeus (apparently the god of quesadillas?) who sent his minions down to party on my taste buds."

There's only a few more weeks of school left – the end is in sight! Keep an eye out for sophomores in spring sports as the year winds down. Roll Red!



Sophomore Hayes McCord performed well for his classmates in the Founders Day Race.

A Letter to the Editor: Is the Kindle the Bane of Books?

April 20, 2009

I must relate most earnestly the profound sentiment of regret that arose within me upon my recent discovery that MBA had acquired what I deem to be an ugly harbinger of an equally ugly and unenlightened age. The object to which I refer is the dreaded Kindle Book, whose name I utter only with the greatest apprehension.

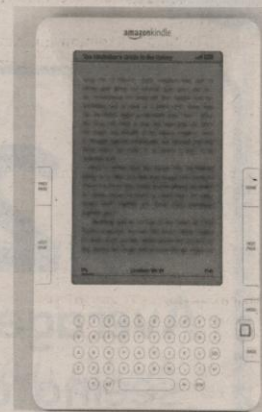
In this epoch of social, moral, and intellectual decline, the Kindle Book encroaches most obnoxiously upon the crumbling tower of high culture. As if the advent of cheap paperbacks easily obtained from such online sources as Amazon.com were not enough to ruin bookstores across the nation, the Kindle Book represents a much more dire threat.

Need I point out the damage already exerted by text-messaging, Facebook, and other phenomena of popular culture? Need I make evident the deteriorating state of scholarship and intellect as seen in the youth across the world? Nay, I should hardly think so! For one need only to observe closely his modern surroundings, and examples aplenty rear their ugly visages. What began with Mark Twain, split-infinitives, and Strunk and White, now continues to propagate under the guise of modern technology.

If this process is allowed to continue, people will soon forget the joy of reading a book printed on simple paper. I am appalled that MBA, a bastion of tradition and scholarship, has facilitated and condoned the decadence of our society

by using a Kindle. *O tempora, O mores!* May all people who value and appreciate traditional Western society and literature shun and boycott this device. Take up the robes of the scholar! Steep yourself within the actual pages of some great tome, not an impersonal object made up of pixels which only promotes and encourages lethargy and instant gratification.

Sincerely,
Thomas Moore



Amazon's Kindle offers books around \$10 apiece.

MBA's Diversity Summit Seeks Unity

by
Denzel Caldwell
Staff Writer

The definition of diversity often leads to miscommunication and, ultimately, animosity due to its varying concepts of meaning. We tend to limit diversity to race only, or maybe class, but this doesn't truly capture just how unique we are. There are many other constituencies to diversity that must be brought to light. Therefore, we have replaced "diversity" with "multiculturalism" to reflect our true identities.

At MBA's 2nd annual Diversity Summit, the leaders of MBA's cultural organizations (JAG, African American Studies Club, and Asian Cultural Club) and a number of faculty gathered to develop ways to make the MBA community more culturally aware.

One of these ideas suggested addressing the topic of multiculturalism in junior school, establishing this theme early in one's MBA career through discussions during orientation to enlighten the MBA

students on the other cultures of the world.

Other ideas included appointing a student council member and/or a faculty member for multi-cultural affairs to deal with possible issues such as bigotry, holding a mass, multicultural forum with other schools across Nashville, having religious and cultural leaders speak at assemblies, inserting a cultural section in *The Bell Ringer*, and addressing ways on how to behave towards women. These ideas and others could be beneficial in MBA's producing more well-rounded students who will take a more proactive, and not reactive, role in society.

We would finally like to emphasize that this is the multicultural, not minority, club. We want to involve the entire school in this process, especially including FCA. We will hold another multicultural meeting in May. Stay posted for details.

MBA Stats

Compiled by
Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Ultimate Frisbee

STATE CHAMPIONS—For the first time in MBA's prestigious Ultimate history, the team has finally captured the elusive state championship trophy. The Ultimate team is the first MBA team to win a state championship this year.

The squad went the whole season without losing to a high school team, resulting in an undefeated high school record.

Highlights of the year include victories over Rhodes College, Southern Miss, and Jacksonville State in the T-Town Throwdown in Tuscaloosa, AL, as well as being the number one high school team in the nation for an extended amount of time. The victories at state will only help MBA's final national ranking. The team was led by its fearless leader, Coach Russ, and its seven seniors: Ian Preston, Matt Ractliffe, Brandon Dockery, Matt Wieck, Zach Brickner, Baker Mulherin, and Leland Howe.

The State Championship came from victories over USN, Blackman, USN JV, McCallie, Independence, and even the MBA JV.

Baseball

*Team Leader

Player	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SB	RBI	OBP	Slg	BA
Alex Kohls	14	43	12	18	1	0	1	3	5	15	.521	.512	.419
Spencer Wise	21	62	20	25	1	2	0	13	14	12	.605	.484	.403
Neil Reinhardt	13	38	9	15	2	0	0	4	3	10	.500	.447	.395
Wade Nelson	21	66	18	26	9	1	2	5	4	24	.452	.652	.394
William Tanner	18	51	14	18	2	2	0	3	5	8	.407	.471	.353
Matt Ractliffe	17	48	13	15	3	0	0	6	5	8	.429	.375	.313
Joe Riegler	21	61	11	19	5	0	0	6	9	10	.433	.393	.311
David Lee	15	36	14	11	5	1	0	11	3	3	.521	.500	.306
Hooper Paty	21	59	10	17	2	0	0	6	0	14	.437	.322	.288
Tom Corcoran	16	35	11	10	5	0	0	6	1	4	.500	.429	.286

Player	G	IP	SO	W	L	ERA
Wade Nelson	7	40.2	23	2	3	3.44
Denney Sandwith	7	13.2	8	2	0	5.12
Chris Vincent	5	25.0	13	3	1	5.32
Tom Corcoran	6	22.1	8	2	2	8.15



Coach Wims makes a mound visit during the BA game.

Lacrosse

Goals

1. Kile Garrett – 36
2. Clay Adams – 30
2. Connor Pagnani – 30
3. Nate Smith – 17

Assists

1. George Curtis – 27
2. Clay Adams – 7
3. Nate Smith – 7
3. Kile Garrett – 7

Points

1. Kile Garrett – 43
2. George Curtis – 41
2. Clay Adams – 41
3. Connor Pagnani – 37

Takeaways

1. Keesler Sanders – 23
 2. Sam Berklacich – 15
 3. John Morphis – 13
- Bailey Brandon—145 Saves; 64.18 Save %

Tennis

1. Naveen Chadalavada (4-2)
2. Richard Brunsting (5-0)
3. Palmer Campbell (4-1)
4. Russ Anderson (5-0)
5. Davis Thraikill (6-0)
6. Leland Bandlow (5-0)
7. Jake Hymes (3-0)
8. Andrew Karpos (3-0)

*Matches against BGA, Ravenwood, Centerville, St. Xavier Tournament, and Lone Oak are factored into the records

*Rankings are an average of the starting line-up (6 singles play per match)

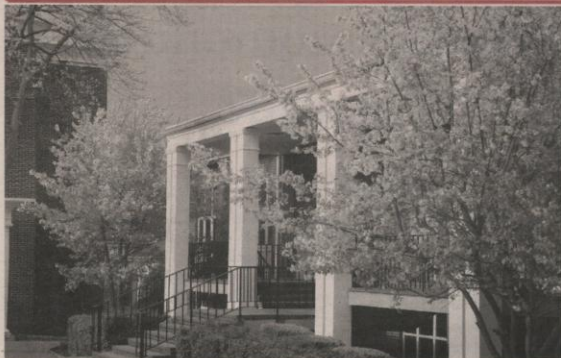
Track

Highland Games- 1st place in Discus, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Stone Throw, and Caber Toss Relays

Buster Relays- 1st Place—Leland Howe (Pole Vault), Scott Bubis (Discus), Long Jump (Patrick Crum), Shot Put (Wesley Johnson), Distance Medley Relay (Michael Peters, David Dalton, Dalton Fouts, Ryan Hill)

Doug Hall Relays- 1st Place- Pole Vault Relay (Leland Howe, Baker Mulherin, David Dalton), Shot Put Relay, High Jump (Ryan Venable, Steven Gaittens, Paul Bamson), Long Jump, and Distance Medley Relays (Michael Peters, Steven Gaittens, Dalton Fouts, Ryan Hill)

Nashville City Championship- 1st Place- Wesley Johnson (Shot Put), Patrick Crum (Long Jump), 4x800 Relay (Andrew Powell, Baker Mulherin, David Dalton, Dalton Fouts)



A Spring view of Wallace Hall



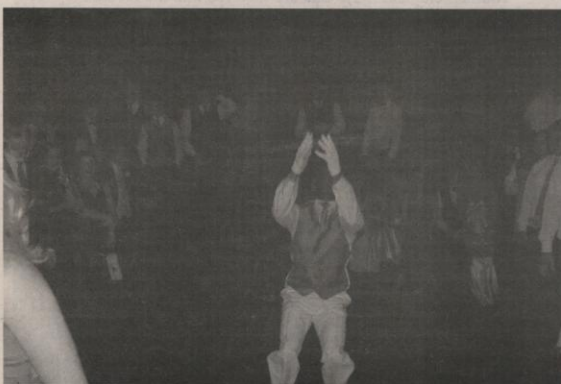
A shameless plug for the "stanky legg"



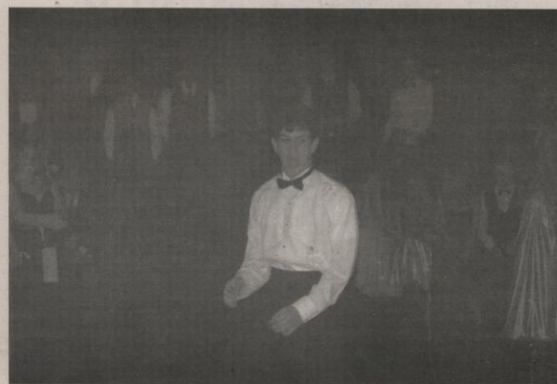
Bradford Norton, Ed Williams, Ian Preston, and Charlie Watkins enjoy the 50 Days to Graduation picnic.



Serious ping pong is played in the Asian Cultural Club ping pong tournament.



Reggie Ford begins another one of his legendary backflips.



Andy Lustig offers an alternative dancing style.